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Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

Argentina, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation and Ukraine: draft resolution

Humanitarian assistance to Serbia and Montenegro

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991, and reaffirming that humanitarian assistance should be provided in accordance with the guiding principles contained in the annex to that resolution,

Recalling also its resolutions 54/96 F of 15 December 1999, 55/169 of 14 December 2000, 56/101 of 14 December 2001 and 57/148 of 16 December 2002,

Deeply appreciative of the humanitarian assistance and the rehabilitation support rendered by a number of States, in particular major contributors, international agencies and organizations and non-governmental organizations to alleviate the humanitarian needs of the affected population in Serbia and Montenegro, in particular emergency assistance provided by the European Union and various countries,

Recognizing the role of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe and the stabilization and association process for the western Balkans in assisting Serbia and Montenegro in its efforts in further promoting democratic and economic reforms and in intensifying regional cooperation,

Aware of the continued need for humanitarian assistance in Serbia and Montenegro and of the humanitarian requirements of part of the population, including refugees and internally displaced persons, and recognizing the need to ensure the effective and smooth transition from humanitarian to development efforts in Serbia and Montenegro,

Aware also of the weakness of the economy and basic services, which exacerbates further the situation of socially and economically vulnerable segments of the population, including refugees and internally displaced persons, and which is coupled with limited basic social services capacity, especially in the health sector,

Acknowledging that a large number of refugees and internally displaced persons still remain in Serbia and Montenegro and that assistance requirements will include local integration whenever refugees and internally displaced persons are not willing to return to their places of origin,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

Recognizing the role of the United Nations in helping Serbia and Montenegro to resolve the humanitarian problems that confront it and in coordinating the efforts of the international community to provide humanitarian assistance to the country,

Acknowledging the support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Development Programme and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to the Council of Ministers of Serbia and Montenegro in implementation of the National Strategy for Resolving Problems of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons in Serbia and Montenegro and international support in developing a poverty reduction strategy and a Roma integration and empowerment strategy,

Recognizing the continued decrease in humanitarian assistance in 2004,

1. *Calls upon* all States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant bodies to continue to provide humanitarian assistance to alleviate the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable segments of the population of refugees and internally displaced persons, bearing in mind in particular the special situation of women, children, the elderly and other vulnerable groups, while seeking durable solutions for a safe return of refugees and internally displaced persons to their places of origin or for settlement at their place of refuge for those who want to integrate locally, in cooperation with the local authorities, with a successive transition to development projects aimed at a durable solution of these questions;

2. *Also calls upon* all States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant bodies to offer support to the Council of Ministers of Serbia and Montenegro in its efforts to ensure the transition from relief to long-term development goals;

3. *Welcomes* the adoption of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Serbia and Montenegro as a strategic document for the operational activities of the United Nations system in Serbia and Montenegro and as a basis for the entire development assistance programme in the period 2005-2009, also welcomes the adoption of the United Nations Development Programme country programme outline and the United Nations Children's Fund country programme document for Serbia and Montenegro for the period 2005-2009, and calls upon all States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant bodies to support their implementation;

[1] See A/59/293.

4. *Also welcomes* the continued commitment of Serbia and Montenegro, encourages it to cooperate further with the United Nations system, as well as development and humanitarian organizations to address the needs of the affected population, including refugees and internally displaced persons, and urges the relevant authorities and the international community to support and stimulate development assistance for the implementation of the National Strategy for Resolving Problems of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons, national strategies for poverty reduction and other programmes that will ensure that the needs of the vulnerable refugees and internally displaced persons in Serbia and Montenegro are met and to pursue durable solutions to their plight, in particular voluntary repatriation and reintegration, stresses the need to create conditions that are conducive to their safe return, and emphasizes in this regard the importance of regional cooperation in the search for solutions to the plight of refugees;

5. *Calls upon* all Member States and international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to assist financially and otherwise in the establishment of durable solutions for refugees and internally displaced persons, inter alia, through the implementation of the National Strategy;

6. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General, as well as development agencies, to continue to mobilize the timely provision of international development assistance to Serbia and Montenegro;

7. *Emphasizes* the importance of the coordination of assistance to Serbia and Montenegro, inter alia, through the mechanism of the United Nations resident coordinator;

8. *Requests* the United Nations and the specialized agencies to continue their efforts to assess needs, in cooperation with the Council of Ministers of Serbia and Montenegro, relevant international and regional organizations and bodies and interested States, with a view to ensuring an effective and smooth transition from relief to the provision of longer-term development assistance to Serbia and Montenegro, taking into account the work already carried out in this field and the need to avoid duplication and the overlapping of efforts;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to it at its sixty-first session, under the item entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance", a final report on the implementation of the present resolution.